

**Town of Westford
Finance Committee Meeting
Abbot Elementary School
October 22, 2007**

Present: Dave Murray, Kelly Ross, Al Herget, Rose O'Donnell, Alicia Corvino, Jeanne Drula, Michael Princi, Ingrid Nilsson, Suzanne Marchand

Absent: Tom Price

6:30 PM Call to Order

Reserve Fund Transfers

The Finance Committee was presented with a reserve fund transfer from the Selectmen's budget in order to pay for an assessment center for the hiring of a new police chief.

Nilsson motioned to transfer funds from the Fiscal Year 2008 Finance Committee reserve fund to the Selectmen's budget in the amount of \$6,800.00. Ross seconded the motion which was approved, 6-1. Drula opposed.

6:45 – Al Herget arrived.

Special Town Meeting Articles

Article 5 – Capital Requests

Nilsson motioned to recommend Article 5. Drula asked how much money was going to be spent on the Town Farm Road building for the Recreation Department. The amount was never costed out. It was also suggested that Community Preservation Funds be spent on the building. However, the CPA funds cannot be spent on building maintenance. Murray noted that the expenses for the Town Farm Building need to be addressed during the budget process. The motion was seconded by Ross and approved unanimously, 8-0.

Article 6 – Hillside Avenue Drainage

Princi motioned not to recommend Article 6. The owner refuses to move the mailboxes to avoid the flooding. The motion is seconded by Nilsson and approved unanimously, 8-0.

Article 7 – Street Betterment – Pond Road

Drula motioned to recommend Article 7. The Town will recoup \$175,000 from the residents of Pond Road over the next twenty years. Marchand noted that it was mentioned at a Selectmen's meeting that the Town should have one bond issue for all of the street betterments and have the residents pay down the debt. It was also noted that the fire department is having trouble driving the trucks down the road. Ross seconded the motion which failed unanimously, 0-8.

Article 16 – Accept Starr Circle as Town Road and Appropriation for Paving Starr Circle

O'Donnell motioned to recommend Article 16. Dan Haskard, a resident of Starr Circle, addressed the Finance Committee. To finish paving Starr Circle, it will cost the Town \$15,000. However, the residents of Starr Circle have already spent \$45,000 addressing the needs of the road. It was noted that the \$15,000 needed to pave the street was a high estimate and it should cost less than that. Murray noted that the residents fronted their portion of the money to accept the street and no other residents have done this. Drula seconded the motion which was approved 7-1. Princi opposed.

Article 17 – Reduce Amount Raised by Taxes in FY08

O'Donnell motioned to recommend the approval of the first two figures from Article 17. Corvino seconded the motion which was approved unanimously, 8-0.

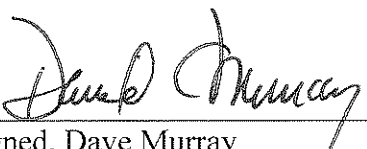
Article 11 – Transfer Care, Custody and Control of East Boston Camp Property to Conservation Commission.

Corvino motioned to recommend Article 11. A discussion ensued regarding the tax-exempt status of the bond to purchase East Boston Camps and it was noted that the Finance Committee needed more information before making a recommendation on Article 11.

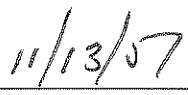
Adjourn

7:25 – O'Donnell motioned to adjourn. Drula seconded the motion which was approved unanimously, 8-0.

Reserve Fund Balance FY08: \$155,011.80



Signed, Dave Murray
Finance Committee Chairman



Date